



Water Quality Protection Charge

What it Means for Montgomery County



What is the Water Quality Protection Charge?

The Water Quality Protection Charge (WQPC) is a part of Montgomery County property tax bills. The WQPC raises funds to improve the water quality of our streams and reduce the impacts of stormwater runoff.

Who Pays the WQPC?

All property owners in Montgomery County pay the WQPC, including businesses, HOAs and non-profit organizations.

How Are the Funds Spent?

The WQPC funds many of the County's clean water initiatives including but not limited to: restoring polluted and eroded streams, stream monitoring, storm drain cleaning and maintenance, inspection of stormwater management practices, and protecting water quality and wildlife habitat.

Why is the WQPC Necessary?

Stormwater is rain that runs off hard surfaces and carries pollution to our streams. It is one of the biggest water quality problems in Montgomery County.

When left unmanaged, stormwater flows through storm drains to nearby creeks and streams at high speeds and in large volumes. This polluted, unhealthy water damages property, erodes creek banks, harms wildlife, and eventually ends up in the Chesapeake Bay.

Restoration projects funded by the WQPC reverse and prevent the impact of stormwater. They also create jobs and boost the local economy.

How Is My WQPC Determined?

The WQPC is calculated based on the potential for a property to contribute to stormwater runoff. Typically, a larger, more developed property produces more runoff, and therefore, receives a higher charge.

The WQPC funded the restoration of an eroded, polluted stream in Bethesda.

Before Restoration



After Restoration





Water Quality Protection Charge

Reduce Your Charge and Protect Our Streams



How Can I Lower My Charge?

Credits of up to 80% off your WQPC are available to property owners who maintain stormwater management practices on their property.

Stormwater management practices are landscaping techniques or structures that help reduce stormwater runoff. They help prevent stream damage, flooding and erosion. Some practices even beautify your property!

Types of stormwater management practices include:

- Rain gardens
- Green Roofs
- Conservation landscapes
- Permeable pavement
- Dry Wells
- Bioretention gardens
- Wet ponds / dry ponds
- Sand filters
- Infiltration trenches
- Swales

Are you eligible for a credit? First, determine if you already have stormwater management practices on your property. Your home or business may have practices that were installed by the previous owner or during construction. Contact 311 (240-777-0311) for more information.

If you would like to install a stormwater management practice, the RainScapes program can help offset the cost of installation. After installation, you also become eligible for the WQPC credit. (See below.)

Apply for your credit at **MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/WQPC**

Additional Money Saving Opportunities

Residential property owners can receive up to \$2,500 per lot in RainScapes Rewards Rebates to assist in the installation of stormwater management practices.

Commercial properties, multi-family properties, HOAs, and non-profits are eligible for up to \$10,000 in RainScapes Rewards Rebates.

Visit **RainScapes.org**



A family attends a RainScape training on rain barrels.



Join the thousands of County residents who are already protecting their local waters!

WQPC Resources

Visit our website to:

- View your WQPC
- Apply for a credit
- Apply for a hardship waiver or appeal your charge
- Download language resources
- Read FAQs

MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/WQPC